

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 69 and 75, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising:
a first tong for gripping the first tubular; and
a second tong for gripping the second tubular,
wherein:
the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof,
the second tong is provided with at least one pinion,
the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated,
each of the first and second tongs have an axial passage extending therethrough for receiving a tubular, and
an opening is provided from an edge the peripheral surface to the axial passage of each of the first and second tongs to allow the introduction of the tubular into the axial passage of each of the first and second tongs.
2. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong is a back-up tong and the second tong is a wrenching tong.
3. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one pinion is located at or near the periphery of the second tong.
4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong is substantially cylindrical.
5. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is substantially cylindrical.

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6. Cancelled.
7. Cancelled.
8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a motor is provided on the second tong and coupled to the at least one pinion.
9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is provided with two pinions.
10. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 180° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.
11. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 120° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.
12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong is provided with one pinion.
13. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong comprises a plurality of hydraulically driven clamping jaws for gripping the first tubular.
14. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second tong comprises a plurality of hydraulically driven clamping jaws for gripping the second tubular.
15. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each jaw is equipped with two or more dies.

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16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each jaw is attached to hydraulic driving member via a bearing.

17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first tong and second tong each comprise a plurality of hydraulic driving members, each hydraulic driving member comprising a piston rod and a piston chamber, and a jaw is an integral part of the hydraulic driving members, the dies being placed in pockets in the piston chamber.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein bearings supported on resilient members are provided between the first tong and the second tong to support the first tong on top of the second tong.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising:

a gear;

at least one pinion;

a motor coupled to the at least one pinion; and

a first clamping member for clamping the first tubular within the gear,

the at least one pinion being attached to a second clamping member for clamping the second tubular,

the at least one pinion meshing with the gear in such a way that the first clamping member and the second clamping member can be rotated relative to one another by rotating the at least one pinion, wherein the first clamping member comprises hydraulically actuated jaws mounted within the gear about an axial passage extending through the gear.

20. Cancelled.

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21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the second clamping member comprises jaws mounted within a clamping housing about an axial passage extending therethrough.

22-55. Cancelled.

56. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and the second tong is provided with two pinions.

57. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 180° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.

58. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the pinions are located at or near the periphery of the second tong spaced by substantially 120° about the longitudinal axis of the tong.

59. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and the first tong comprises a plurality of hydraulically driven clamping jaws for gripping the first tubular.

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60. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 59, wherein each jaw is equipped with two or more dies.

61. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 59, wherein each jaw is attached to hydraulic driving member via a bearing.

62. Cancelled.

63. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and the first tong and second tong each comprise a plurality of hydraulic driving members, each hydraulic driving member comprising a piston rod and a piston chamber, and a jaw is an integral part of the hydraulic driving members, the dies being placed in pockets in the piston chamber.

64. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and bearings supported on resilient members are provided between the first tong and the second tong to support the first tong on top of the second tong.

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65. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the tongs comprises:

a body portion having a central opening therein for receiving a length of tubular;
and

at least two clamping mechanisms mounted in said body, the clamping mechanisms being radially spaced about said opening;

a plurality of elongate mounting members disposed between each of the clamping mechanisms and the body of the tong, each mounting member having a flat face for abutting a side of a clamping mechanism and a rounded side for locating in a complimentary shaped recess in the tong body,

wherein each clamping mechanism may be displaced to some extent from radial alignment with the central opening of the tong.

66. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and wherein each of the tongs comprises:

a body portion having a central opening therein for receiving a length of tubular; and

at least two clamping mechanisms mounted in said body, the clamping mechanisms being radially spaced about said opening;

a plurality of elongate mounting members disposed between each of the clamping mechanisms and the body of the tong, each mounting member having a flat face for abutting a side of a clamping mechanism and a rounded side for locating in a complimentary shaped recess in the tong body,

wherein each clamping mechanism may be displaced to some extent from radial alignment with the central opening of the tong.

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67. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising a first tong for gripping the first tubular and a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and the first tong is a back-up tong and the second tong is a wrenching tong.

68. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising:

a first tong for gripping the first tubular; and

a second tong for gripping the second tubular,

wherein:

the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof,

the second tong is provided with at least one pinion,

the at least one pinion meshes with the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated, and

a longitudinal axis of the first tong is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the at least one pinion.

69. Cancelled.

70. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising:

a first tong for gripping the first tubular; and

a second tong having a plurality of movable clamping jaws for gripping the second tubular,

wherein the first tong is provided with teeth around a peripheral surface thereof, the second tong is provided with at least one pinion, the at least one pinion meshes with

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the teeth in such a way that the first tong and the second tong can be rotated relative to one another when the pinion is rotated.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the plurality of movable clamping jaws is hydraulically driven.

72. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for applying torque to a first tubular relative to a second tubular, the apparatus comprising:

a first gripping apparatus for gripping the first tubular, the gripping apparatus having hydraulically actuatable clamping elements;

a second gripping apparatus for gripping the second tubular, the second gripping apparatus rotatably coupled to the first gripping apparatus; and

a drive mechanism attached to the first gripping apparatus and engaged with the second gripping apparatus,

wherein actuation of the drive mechanism causes the first gripping apparatus to rotate relative to the second gripping apparatus.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the first gripping apparatus comprises movable clamping elements.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the movable clamping elements are radially movable.

75. Cancelled.

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the first gripping apparatus comprises an axial passage for receiving the first tubular and an opening in the periphery of the first gripping apparatus for accessing the axial passage.

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77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the first gripping apparatus further comprises a plurality of movable gripping elements for engaging the first tubular in the axial passage.